

Feb. 16, 1840,

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~~1840~~ 38

DAVID:

AN

ORATORIO,

IN

TWO PARTS:

COMPOSED BY THE CHEVALIER SIGISMOND NEUKOMM.

PERFORMED BY

THE HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY,

At the Melodeon.

Personages.

DAVID,
SAUL,
JONATHAN,
GOLIATH,
HIGH PRIEST,

MICHAL, DAUGHTER OF SAUL,
SISTER OF DAVID,
MESSENGER,
CHORUS OF SHEPHERDS, WARRIORS, &c.
MALE AND FEMALE ATTENDANTS.

PART I.

NO. 1. INTRODUCTION.

A Desert near Bethlehem.

DAVID, HIS SISTER, SHEPHERDS.

NO. 2. RECITATIVE.

DAVID.

Dear partners of my peaceful toils, ye know
My father bids me to the camp repair.
Yet, ere we part, our voices let us raise
In humble supplication to our God.

No. 3. CHORAL HYMN.—(FOUR CHOIRS.)

O Lord, thy guardian care we own:

Our life, our all is thine:

We bow before yon heav'n, thy throne:

Almighty! power divine!

Look down, O Lord, in mercy from on high:

Our flocks, our homes from every ill defend:

Our sins forgive: our daily wants supply;
And guide thy wanderers safely to the end.

No. 4. AIR.

DAVID.

My flock, my friends, farewell!

May heav'n your store increase:

Content be where you dwell;

And all your paths be peace.

O for the rescue of my fathers' land!

Steel'd be my heart and nerv'd my youthful hand.

'Tis done:—no fears, no dangers shall appal,

I feel the impulse, and obey the call.

No. 5. RECITATIVE.

SISTER OF DAVID.

'Tis well, my brother, that our father's will
Be cheerfully obeyed.—Forget not thou,

Amid the camp's wild tumult, the delight
Of tranquil scenes and pastures left afar;
Remember these thy friends:—remember me,
Whose love shall follow thee, with earnest pray'r,
That thou may'st speedily in joy return.

No. 6. AIR.

Return, O David, return.
Let not the war allure thee,
The glittering helm and shield:
Let not the sword delight thee,
The plume and the tented field.

O think of these pastures! till thou shalt return,
E'en the stream of the valley thine absence shall mourn.

The Valley of Elah.

The Camps of the Israelites and the Philistines.

No. 7. CHORUS OF ISRAELITES.

Behold the Giant swelling in his pride!
His trumpet sounds afar.
His tow'ring crest how vast! his stride
The terror of the war.
Behold his beamy spear,
That armies clave asunder!
Hark! how his voice upon the ear
Breaks forth like distant thunder!

No. 8. RECITATIVE.

GOLIATH.

Ye men of Israel! why are ye come out
To set your battle in array? Again
I challenge all your host. Thus I defy you:
Give me a man, that we may fight together.

RECITATIVE.

DAVID.

Who is this Philistine, that he should thus
Defy the armies of the living God?
Let no man's courage fail because of him.
Myself will go and fight this boasting heathen.
The Lord, who from the Bear and Lion saved me,
He will defend me.

RECITATIVE.

GOLIATH.

I cannot war with boys:
Yet if thou needs must prove my wrath, thine head
Shall bow to Dagon on his hallow'd floor.

No. 9. DUET.

GOLIATH.

Come unto me:—thy youthful boast
Shall quickly find its due reward.
The wolves of evening shall devour thee:
The vulture's beak shall rend thine heart.

DAVID.

I come to thee:—the Lord of Hosts,
Of Israel's hosts, shall be my guard:

His mightier arm shall soon o'erpower thee,
Vain are thy terrors, vain thine art.

GOLIATH.

Come unto me, and cease thy war of words.

DAVID.

I come to thee; the battle is the Lord's.

No. 10. INTRODUCTION AND CHORUS.

He falls, the monster falls:—they fly. Victory!
Up and pursue:—smite and divide the spoil.
Onward! to Gath and Ekron drive them home;
Till night close in upon the fields of blood,
And darkness veil the slayer and the slain.

Gibeah of Saul. The Palace.

No. 11. RECITATIVE.

THE DAUGHTER OF SAUL.

Our fears are over. Hasty messengers
Successive bear good tidings. Great Goliath
A stripling champion slew, and brings his head
In triumph. Through each city as they pass,
The women welcome them with songs and dances.

No. 12. AIR.

Mighty Jehovah! boundless thanks we owe
To thee, whose arm, upheld o'er all our ways,
Exalts the meek, and brings the haughty low.
Deign to receive our sacrifice of praise.

No. 13. RECITATIVE.

See where the throng are pressing to the gate.
Haste we to meet them, and rejoice before them.

Entry of the Army of the Israelites into Gibeah.

14. TRIUMPHAL MARCH & GRAND CHORUS

Semi-chorus.

Daughters of Israel,
Lo! the hosts advance.
Strike the bright cymbal;
Lead forth the dance.

Full Chorus.

Hail! to Saul and David,
Songs triumphant raise:
They come, they come victorious;
Swell your notes of praise!

Saul hath his thousands
In the battle slain;
David with ten thousands
Strew'd the battle plain.—*Da Capo.*

No. 15. QUARTET—(CANON.)

Who can proclaim thy wondrous acts, O Lord;
Or show forth thy praise?

No. 16. GRAND CHORUS—(FUGUE.)

Thou art a God of Wonders;
Thou reignest triumphant for evermore.

PART II.

The Palace of Saul.

INTRODUCTION.

No. 17. RECITATIVE.

SAUL.

Ah me ! what cares oppress me ! For without
Is open war : within are secret foes.
E'en now a viper, that I cherished
Within my bosom, sheds its venom there.
Ah ! for an hour of undisturbed calm !

No. 18. AIR.

Come, gentle sleep, and lull me in thine arms,
Sleep such as soothes the wearied soldier's toil,
His war-worn limbs reclining on the earth,
And sinking to repose.

No. 19.

No—'t will not come !

My pulses beat :—my brain is all on fire.
A thousand spectres dance before mine eyes,
Arm'd with red lightnings and uplifted spears.
Beyond is nought but darkness, cloud, and storm.

No. 20. RECITATIVE.

JONATHAN.

See how the evil spirit is strong upon him !
David ! come forth. Thy harp hath power to soothe
My father's anguish.

No. 21. PRELUDE HARP.

DAVID.

I will lay me down in peace and take my rest :
For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me
To dwell in safety.—*Psalm iv. 9.*

No. 22. RECITATIVE.

SAUL.

Who talks of peace and safety, when my crown
Wrings my gall'd temples, and my very throne,
Assail'd by traitors, to its centre shakes ?

No. 23. AIR.

DAVID.

When fairest on a Monarch's brow
The gems of virtue shine :
How bright doth his example glow,
How noble ! how divine !
But, should the soul-consuming pow'r
Of sin his heart enthrall,
How dim his crown ! how dark his hour !
From what a height his fall !

Now, therefore, O ye kings, be wise,
Serve ye the Lord in fear.
Then, as the light
From eastern height,
Blazing abroad o'er morning skies
Your glory shall appear.

No. 24. RECITATIVE.

SAUL.

I'll hear no more. Who bade thee thus intrude
Thy hateful lessons on a Monarch's ear ;
I know thine aim to wrest my sceptre from me.
Shall a base shepherd, whom my bounty rais'd,
By rebel arts traduce my people's love,
And scorn me to my face ? Die traitor—die !

No. 25. CHORUS.

Haste thee away, ere death o'ertake thee here,
Nor farther tempt his fury and thy fate ;
Seek out some distant wild and dwell in peace ;
There may'st thou pour to God thy hymn of praise,
And gales of heav'n shall waft it to his throne.

Hall in the Palace.

DAUGHTER OF SAUL, DAVID, JONATHAN.

No. 26. RECITATIVE.

DAUGHTER OF SAUL.

Though in fulfilment of his royal word,
As unto him that should Goliath slay,
My father gave me to thee, and should love thee
E'en as his offspring ; though my brother's heart
Be one with thine ; yet peril is at hand :
Saul's bitter envy thirsteth for thy life :
Ah ! woe is me ! thou must not tarry here.

No. 27. TERZETTO.

Dearer to me than all below !
Though for a little while we part,
The hours will linger sad and slow,
Till thou return to bless my heart.

JONATHAN.

Go, and the will of heav'n obey :
Friend of my soul, while life shall last
These clouds of woe shall roll away,
And all our pangs will soon be past.

DAVID.

Partner of all my joy and pain !
Friend of my soul ! let sorrow cease.
Hope whispers, we shall meet again
Restored to safety, love and peace.

DAUGHTER OF SAUL AND JONATHAN.

Bless'd be the man whom Heav'n and men approve,
Shelter'd by friendship, and sustained by love.

DAVID.

God be thy guide, and all our deeds approve !
And bless thy friendship, and reward thy love !

ALL THREE.

Farewell !

Camp near Mount Gilboa.

No. 28. RECITATIVE.

SAUL.

Wretch that I am, that impiously I sought
To bags and wizards whom my soul abhorr'd !
Th' unearthly voice still vibrates on mine ear :
And withers all my hopes. Said he "to-morrow ?"
Spirit of Samuel ! rise again : unsay
Those fatal words that doom'd a king to die.

No. 29. DUET.

O Jonathan ! thy father's heart is rent
With mortal agony. My joys are gone ;
The crown is fallen from my brow. My glory
Is all departed. I and thou to-morrow
Must pass through slaughter to the gates of death.

JONATHAN.

What dreams are these that overwhelm thine heart !
Let not Philistia triumph,
That Saul, the warrior king of Israel,
Trembled before them.

BOTH.

Lo where they come ! the foe is nigh.
Shall Israel's Monarch yield ?
No :—on my { heart and arm } rely ;
 { love and sword }
Thy Father scorns { to fear or fly :
Thy Son shall scorn {
On to the battle-field !

No. 30. BATTLE—SYMPHONY.

No. 31. RECITATIVE.

MESSENGER.

Ah ! how shall I proclaim
The tale of woe ? Upon Gilboa's Mount
The battle join'd. Philistia is victorious
Saul and his sons are slain !

No. 32. CHORUS.

O Israel, mourn ! their course is o'er :
The brave, the mighty are no more :
Let all your streams of sorrow flow.
Saul sinn'd ;—they fell. He scorn'd his God ;
They died beneath the avenging rod.
O day of bitterness and woe !

Hebron.

THE HIGH PRIEST, DAVID, THE PEOPLE.

No. 33. RECITATIVE.

HIGH PRIEST.

Saul and his cruel house have ceased to reign.
Bring David hither, and anoint him king.
His God is with him ; and his way shall prosper.
Give the loud trumpet breath to sound his praise.
May he who led thee up, prolong thy days ;
Make thee a happy monarch, good and great,
The pillar of Judea's falling state !

No. 34. GRAND CHORUS.

Hail to thee, David, God's anointed King ;
All hearts rejoice, all tongues triumphant sing !
Heav'n bless thy reign ; and Israel's state restore ;
Thy throne, thy race abide for evermore !

No. 35. AIR.

DAVID.

Glory to God alone shall be my song.
Blessed forever be his holy name,
Whose hand sustains the weak, and quells the strong ;
My lips his truth, his mercy shall proclaim.

No. 36. GRAND CHORUS.

Hail to thee, David ! From thy loins shall spring
A glorious Lord, an everlasting King,
Man to redeem and endless bliss restore ;
When earthly thrones shall cease, and time shall
be no more.

No. 37. CELESTIAL CHORUS.

Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

No. 38. GRAND CHORUS, FINALE—FUGUE.

Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Praise the Lord for evermore. **HOSANNA !**